

Note on the Value of the Gastropod Apex as a Means of Classification.
—DR. BURNETT SMITH remarked that studies recently made among Tertiary and recent Gastropods tend to show that the importance of the "protoconch" as a means of generic discrimination has been greatly exaggerated. An examination of the species of *Pyrula* with rounded whorls (*P. ficus*, *P. papyratia*, *P. mississippiensis*, *P. condita*, etc.) has shown that with slight exceptions the chief specific modifications have been introduced not into the later adult whorls, but into the early whorls. On tracing the genus back in time it is seen that on the whole the apices become smaller and the smooth whorls are more numerous. Nevertheless we find that at the present day both the small (generalized) and the large (specialized) apices are found. The Panamic form (*P. decussata*) is furnished with the primitive type of apex, while the Gulf and Caribbean representative (*P. papyratia*) has the large specialized apex with but one smooth whorl.

The Texas and Louisiana Lower Claiborne races of the species commonly known as *Volutilithes petrosus* constitute still another monophyletic assemblage, though in this case a more restricted one. Here it has been observed that again the chief modifications are exhibited by the apical smooth stage, while the later ontogenetic stages remain relatively unchanged.

JOHN W. HARSHBERGER, PH.D., spoke of the influence of chemicals on the development of the bud. (No abstract.)

MAY 21.

ARTHUR ERWIN BROWN, D.Sc., Vice-President, in the Chair.

Thirty-eight persons present.

The Publication Committee reported that papers under the following titles had been presented for publication:

"The Polycystid Gregarines of the United States" (third contribution), by Howard Crawley (May 13).

"A New Species of *Athleta* and a Note on the Morphology of *Athleta petrosa*," by Burnett Smith (May 15).

"New and Little-known Whelks from Northern Japan and the Kuril Islands," by H. A. Pilsbry (May 16).

"The Distribution of the North American Gordiacea, with Description of a New Species," by Thomas H. Montgomery Jr. (May 21).

P. Chalmers Mitchell, of London, was elected a correspondent.

The following were ordered to be printed: